

## USED YAMAHA CLAVINOVA-FREE!

This is an older instrument which is still in working order although the key touch is not all that it should be. Please contact the office if you would like to take it for home use.



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

It's been such a happy week welcoming all the children back to school, the existing ones as well as our new pupils and the staff. I am sure that the children will soon get used to their new routines, their classrooms and their new friends. Lessons are in full swing and it's been a pleasure to see the children engaged in all of this first week's varied activities. It's also been lovely to see so many parents at the three introductory evenings I have attended with Years 1, 2 and 3.

The staff benefitted from a series of excellent inset days before the children returned on Tuesday. Included were two brilliant workshops by external speakers. The exuberant Belinda Heaven delivered one on the 'Trusted Emotionally Available Adult.' Belinda is a mental health first aid trainer and advisor for Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning, and has written training manuals for teachers on educating children about mental health. She is well known to our staff and some of our parents, having been into school for previous staff training days, and last term to enlighten parents and staff on how to look after own mental health. Then, at the beginning of this week, Neil Griffiths shared with us his expertise on reading and storytelling. Having been a headteacher for 13 years before taking on the role of director of a National Literacy Support Project for the Basic Skills Agency, his good ideas were received gladly by our School and Day Nursery staff.

While we have been spending time away from school, the estates team have been hard at work improving the facilities for our pupils and staff. The rear of Pre-Prep building has had a wonderful makeover - including the removal of the fire escape, rendering, decorating, new roof tiles and the refurbishment of the window frames - it looks very smart indeed! The kitchen has also received a healthy dose of TLC, and no surface has escaped replacement and improvement. It's a much improved working environment for our brilliant catering department. Meanwhile, across the road on the Prep side, the hall and the cloakroom have also been given smart facelifts. There are new vanity units, loos and urinals, as well as a state-of-the-art 85 inch screen in the hall. The Prep playground has also benefitted during the holiday, with a smart tarmac surface marked out with a netball court. I would like to extend my thanks to Jess Griffiths and her team for the considerable workload they took on over the holiday and the improvement they have delivered for our benefit.

I am delighted that our new Breakfast Club is now up and running. A really useful facility for working parents, it runs from 7.40am and is based in the Pre-Prep hall. Any children who need an early drop-off are able to have breakfast in school - cereals, fruit, yoghurts and toast - before joining their peers in the playground at 8.10am. There is an added cost for this and we will need parents to book in advance. To set up your Magic Booking account to book your child's place in Breakfast Club, After-School Club or Tea-Time Club, please visit [berkhampstead.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login](http://berkhampstead.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login)

I hope you can all make the most of this glorious weather this weekend.

With kind regards,

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School



## DIARY DATES

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Saturday 9th September

9:30am Year 6 Grammar Practice  
- for children who have signed up with Mr Cole

#### Monday 11th September

Year 1 and Year 2 After-school  
Football starts today  
4:00pm Year 3 Parents'  
Accelerated Reader Meeting

#### Tuesday 12th September

Kindergarten and Reception  
After-school football starts today  
7:00pm Kindergarten Parents'  
Introductory Evening

Wednesday 13th September  
Year 5 Residential trip to Viney  
Hill begins

2:15pm U11 Hockey  
v Richard Pate (away)

2:30pm U11 Rugby  
v The Downs (away)

2:30pm U9 Rugby  
v Wycliffe (away)

#### Thursday 14th September

7:00pm Reception Parents'  
Curriculum Evening

#### Friday 15th September

Year 2 After-school Hockey Club  
starts today  
Year 5 Return from Viney Hill

#### Saturday 16th September

Grammar School exam at  
Gloucestershire Grammar  
Schools

## INCONSIDERATE PARKING

**£175MMR** has been reported this week. Please can we ask all parents to park safely and considerately.



## CONNECT WITH US

For further insight into your child's day at Berky, please follow us on Social Media. We would be really grateful if you could share stories too. Here are our Social Media handles:

Instagram: [berkhampstead\\_school](#)  
berky\_head  
Facebook: [Berkhampstead](#)  
X (formerly Twitter): [BerkyCheltenham](#)



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Pre-Prep have settled quickly into their new classrooms and have had a fantastic first week! It has been so lovely to see the children coming through the gate with great enthusiasm and huge smiles!

This term is all about exploring different places; Year 1 are off to Africa (they have already requested a school trip on an aeroplane!) and Year 2 are exploring the four nations of the UK. Both year groups have explored a range of maps this week. Year 1 have located the UK and Africa on a world map and are starting to explore why parts of Africa are so hot. Year 2 can name and label the countries that make up the UK and are starting to identify the surrounding seas.

Year 1 have been using adjectives to describe a range of African animals. They have also visited the art room for the first time to create their own animal prints. Carefully tearing and placing paper resulted in some fantastic animal prints. Year 2 are finding out about the British artist LS Lowry and are looking forward to creating their own masterpieces soon! AS







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## PTA NEWS

Hello!

I hope you've had a good first week back to school - and welcome to all new children and families!

It's nice to be back in the sunshine and making plans for this term. There are a few things coming up soon...

### PTA QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 7PM

Mr Titley is ready with a new set of tricky questions to quiz Berky parents at this year's Quiz Night! This is always a really fun evening and a nice way to start the school year. More details and how to book will be shared on email so keep an eye out and book in your team of six, or we can help you to make up a team - it's a lovely way to meet other parents.

### PTA MEETING & AGM WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 7PM

Our first get-together of the year, including an informal AGM, a review of activities and fundraising from last year, the making of plans for the term and year ahead and an opportunity to vote in roles. Our meetings are open to all, and a super way to get to know more about the school, and to get involved as much as you'd like to.

### PTA COFFEE MORNING & TASTE THE MENU - FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 8.30AM

This is open to all parents, and extra nice for new families to pop in at drop off for coffee and cake. You can sample some of the school menu, meet the catering team and PTA volunteers as well as see and hear about some of the things that are available through the PTA. More details will be shared soon...

### A REQUEST FOR HELP

There are a few things we'd like to ask for help with, please get in touch if you can help in any way...

The Uniform Shop - Will be open Thursdays 3-4pm each week. They would love some to help with sorting through donations and volunteers who could open the shop for additional hours in the week.

PTA Team - We've a lovely small group of parents who help with the PTA activities and events - there's always room for more! We'd particularly like to find parents who could take on PTA Secretary (to help keep us organised!) and a Raffle Co-ordinator (to make the most of our raffles for fundraising).

Raffle Donations - As part of the Quiz Night, we run a small raffle, if anyone can help with donations either from your own businesses or contacts you have, we'd really appreciate them - thank you!

**Katie Chapman**  
PTA Chair

